**Geography Seminar Assessment Spring 2008**

**Geography 391**

**Seminar in Geography**

**Dr. Pomeroy**

This is an assessment that functions more as a student outcomes instrument / student evaluation tool than as an exam. Please take your time in completing the survey filling in the appropriate letter response for each question. Use the scantron sheet and a number two pencil for your responses. On the blank paper provided, please add any comments regarding any question on this assessment as well as your answers to the last 3 questions on the survey.

Begin by filling in your last name, sex, birth date, and student identification number on the scantron answer sheet. Thank You.

*Instructions:* Choose the *best* answer for each question.

1.Of the following, the most important current determinant of a state’s classification within the world-system model is its\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) military power

b) population size

c) natural resources

d) ability to ensure international economic competitiveness of its domestic companies

2. The statement, “Mexico’s location next to the United States has had a great impact on its economic development,” suggests that Mexico’s economic development is related to its\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) site b) spatial interaction

c) situation d) cognitive distance

3.Globalization:

a) is less relevant now than ten years ago. b) has resulted in greater international integration.

c) began in the early 1960's. d) has decreased interdependence.

4. Age-sex pyramids are graphical representations of:   
a) the structure of population at a moment in time.

b) the distribution of a population over space.

c) birth rates and death rates of a country.

d) the rankings of countries around the world.

5. Conservation approaches encourage:

a) sustainable uses of natural resources.

b) exploitation of natural resources.

c) a return to “natural” life-styles like those lived by Native Americans.

d) re-creation and reclamation of natural landscapes.

6. When the crude birth rate is higher than the crude death rate, the difference between the two is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) infant mortality rate b) total fertility rate

c) natural increase d) natural decrease

7. The English spoken in Minnesota and the English spoken in Australia can best be characterized as two different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) dialects b) language families

c) language groups d) languages.

8. Which statement best explains why most of the population of the people’s Republic of China live in the eastern third of the nation?

a) best agricultural land is in the East b) largest forests are in the East

c) best fishing areas are off the eastern coast d) largest oil deposits are in the East

9. Pork avoidance among Muslims, eating fish on Fridays among Roman Catholics, bar mitzvahs among Jews, and eating black-eyed peas on New Year’s Day in the U.S. South are all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) cultural traits b) rites of passage.

c) coming-of-age ceremonies d) dietary restrictions

10. In the United States, the smallest percentage of the labor force is engaged in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ activities.

a) primary b.) secondary c) tertiary d) quaternary

11. On maps like the Washington, DC metro map, the region where most of the subway lines intersect is most probably the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) central business district b) zone of transition

c) suburbs d) exurbs

12. Which of the following is in the proper historical sequence?

a) subsistence agriculture, commercial agriculture, hunting and gathering

b) hunting and gathering, subsistence agriculture, commercial agriculture

c) hunting and gathering, commercial agriculture, subsistence agriculture

d) commercial agriculture, subsistence agriculture, hunting and gathering

13. The process of determining the boundaries of districts for the purpose of electing political officials is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) reapportionment b) gerrymandering

c) redistricting d) confabulation

14. In which form of government is significant power given to smaller units of government within the State?

a) unitary state b) confederate state

c) federal state d) organic state

15. People would most likely travel the farthest to:

a) buy bread and milk. b) see a professional sporting event.

c) get a haircut. d) change oil in a car.

16. The greatest difference between length of day and night on the Earth occur:

a) at the solstices

b) at the equinoxes

c) midway between the Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox

d) midway between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox

17. The layers of the atmosphere in order from outer space to the Earth’s surface are:

a) thermosphere, stratosphere, mesosphere troposphere.

b) mesosphere, thermosphere, stratosphere, troposphere

C) thermosphere, mesosphere, stratosphere, exosphere

d) thermosphere, mesosphere, stratosphere, troposphere

18. Divergent plate boundaries are characteristic of:

a) sea-floor spreading centers

b) collision zones of compression between plates

c) lateral motions of plates

d) all of the above

19. In recent times, false rumors have spread suggesting that California is “going to fall into the ocean.” In order for this to be true, the San Andreas fault would have to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fault, not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fault.

a) normal; transform b) reverse; normal

c) transform; normal d) reverse; transform

20. A cP air mass would be responsible for which of the following weather conditions?

a) heavy snow showers and low temperatures in Buffalo, NY

b) daily afternoon thunderstorms along the Gulf coast.

c) drought with high temperatures over the Great Plains

d) cool, breezes along the west coast

21. Which of the following is impossible on Earth?

a) 42°56’56’’ N, 120°12’12’E b) 96°10’25”S, 10°32’30”W

c) 1.56°S, 179.12°E d) 74.34°N, 42.98°W

22. What happens to tropical soils when the rainforest is cleared?

a) The soil improves in that soluble nutrients are no longer depleted by the trees.

b) There is little effect on the soil because of its depth of richness.

c) Clearing interrupts the critical nutrient cycle and leads to soil leaching.

d) The soils stabilize and become excellent for grain crops.

23. Which of the following statements is true?

a) The sun emits radiation composed only of visible light.

b) The earth emits radiation the peaks in the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum

c) The hotter the emitting body, the longer the wavelength of emitted radiation.

d) The earth emits primarily short-wave radiation.

24. On cool spring Pennsylvania mornings, veils of fog can often be seen rising above warm lakes and ponds. This type of fog is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ fog.

a) radiation b) evaporation

c) valley d) convective

25. If you wanted to build a structure along a river, especially one that flows through unconsolidated sediments, you should build the structure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to maximize its lifetime.

a) along a cutbank b) above the point bar

c) on a delta d) on the levee

26. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is produced when a cold front overtakes a cyclonic warm front, wedging beneath it.

a) wave cyclone b) occluded front

c) stationary front d) midlatitude cyclone

27. Suppose an air mass warms as it moves over a land surface, but no water vapor is added or lost. The relative humidity will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) increase b) decrease c) remain the same

28. Which of the following statements is true.

a) BWh climates have long, hot, dry summers, cool, dry winters, and rainfall occurs mainly in

winter.

b) Af climates are dominated by STH all year with very little rainfall.

c) Although climate greatly influences the natural vegetation of a region, it has little impact upon

the soils of a region.

d) ET climates are dominated by the polar high pressure belt all year.

29. The layers of rock through which groundwater cannot run or flow is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) phreatic b) aquifer c) aquiclude d) vadose

30. Relative to glacial mass balance, which of the following is incorrect?

a) A positive net balance or negative net balance occurs during a cold period and a warm period, respectively.

b) Glacial mass is reduced by evaporation and sublimation.

c). Glacial mass is reduced by a combination of processes called ablation.

d) Worldwide, most glaciers are showing marked net increases in mass at present

31. According to the map below (which has a contour interval of 10 feet), what is the elevation of the cemetery (the dashed rectangle to left of the word “Cem.”)?

a) 260 feet b) 280 feet c) 300 feet d) 320 feet



32. In a map, the smaller the scale,

a) the greater the amount of geographical detail

b) the less opportunity for shortening of lines between starting and ending points

c) the greater the simplification of line features

d) the greater the accuracy for line measurement

33. A map with 84 miles to the inch has an RF of:

a) 1:84 b) 1:1008 c) 1:420,000 d) 1:5,322,240

34. A map projection which preserves shape over all other properties of the graticule is said to be

a) equivalent b) equidistant c) conformal d) secant

35. On a compass, magnetic declination is the difference between magnetic north and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) grid north b) true north c) the azimuth d) direction of travel

36. A common worldwide Cartesian coordinate system that uses one of 60 zones that span 6 degrees of longitude and a transverse projection.

a) State Plane b) Pennsylvania South c) UTM d) NAD83

37. A method of cartographic presentation consisting of graduated color to represent data in distinct areas is called:

a) Isarithmic b) Dot Density c) Graduated Symbol d) Choropleth

38. The three main data models used in Geographic Information Systems are:

a) .pdf , .jpg , .gif b) Vector, Raster, TIN

c) Shapefile, Coverage, Image d) Map Document, Project File, Script

39. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ method of categorizing quantitative data creates a predetermined number of classes, each of which have the same number of features:

a) natural breaks b) equal interval

c) quantiles d) Standard Deviation

40. Which type of projection is used for a State Plane zone that extends mainly E-W like Pennsylvania?

a) Transverse Mercator b) Azimuthal Equidistant

c) Lambert Conformal Conic d) Mollweide

41. A township in the U.S. Public Land Survey System contains:

a) four 7.5’ topographic quadrangles

b) 36 one mile square sections

c) Approximately 10,000 people

d) A list of all the landmarks used to describe metes and bounds

42. A line that is defined as the intersection of the earth’s surface and a plane passing through the center of the earth, and having the property that it is the shortest distance between two points on the earth’s surface is:

a) a parallel of latitude b) a rhumb line c)a great circle d) a loxodrome

43. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the exact center of an aerial photograph, while the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the location on the earth’s surface that was directly beneath the aircraft when the photo was taken.

a) principal point; nadir b) nadir, principle point

c) isocenter, conjugate principal point d) benchmark, fiducial mark

44. Which of the following statements are true of the history of GIS?

* 1. The development of the first true GIS depended upon the invention of the microcomputer in the early 1980s.
  2. Some of the first applications were natural resource inventories.
  3. The US government sponsored the first large GIS national project.
  4. Municipal government agencies have been slow to adopt GIS.

45. To a cartographer/GIS analyst, a 1:250 000 map conventionally referred to as

* + 1. large scale b) small scale

46. What is the term for the following definition: points closer together in space are more likely to have similar characteristics than those that are further apart.

a) proximity

b) spatial autocorrelation

c) statistical significance

d) Boolean behavior

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| **Background Information** | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* | *E* |
| 47. How long ago did you first begin your college education? | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years | 6 years | 7 or more years |
| 48. How many times have you interrupted your studies at Shippensburg for at least one semester? | Zero interruptions | 1 interruption | 2 or more |  |  |
| 49. Did you begin college here or did you transfer from another institution? | Here | Transferred from a community college | Transferred from another four-year college (public) | Transferred from a private four-year college |  |
| 50. Where do you live now during the school year? | Campus housing (dorm) | Campus housing (apt.) | Off-campus apt. / house | Sorority / fraternity | With my parents |
| 51. Do you have access to a computer at home that you can use for your school work? | Yes | No |  |  |  |
| 52. Where do you most often access computers for school work? | Home | School lab | Shearer Hall | Work | Other |
| 53. What is your current GPA? | < 2.0 | 2 to 2.5 | 2.5 to 3 | 3.0 to 3.5 | 3.5 to 4.0 |
| 54. Did either or both of your parents graduate from college? | Both parents | mother only | father only | neither parent |  |
| 55. Do you expect to enroll for an advanced degree, when and if, you complete your undergraduate degree? | No | Yes | Not Sure |  |  |
| 56. How many hours per week do you work at a job? Do not include your internship. | No job | 0 to 10 hours | 10 to 20 hours | 20 to 30 hours | Over 30 hours |
| 57. If you have a job, how does it affect your school work? | No impact whatsoever | Slight impact on academic work | Moderate impact on grades | Heavy impact - my grades were hurt considerably | Very heavy impact - my GPA suffered greatly do to the time demands of my job |
| 58. In a typical semester, how many hours per week do you study? | Zero | 1 to 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 20 | Over 20 |
| 59. What is your major? | Geography-GIS | Geo-environmental | Geography-Land Use | BSEd Earth-Space Science | BSEd Geography-Social Studies |
| 60. What year did you declare Geography-Earth Science as a major | Freshman | Sophomore | Junior | Senior |  |

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| Computer Skills | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* |
| 61. Used a computer or word processor to prepare reports or papers. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| *Used spreadsheet software to:* |  |  |  |  |
| 62. - display and format numerical data | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 63. - process data (sort, calculate) | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 64. - create tables | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 65. - create graphs or charts | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 66. - for statistical analysis | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 67. Used presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Corel Presentations | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 68. Used statistical analysis software for any purpose. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 69. Downloaded data from the Internet into a spreadsheet, word process document, or similar software package or in GIS/Cartography | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 70. Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor or other students. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 71. Used a computer tutorial to learn material for a course. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 72. Participated in class discussions using e-mail, a list-serve, chat group or similar electronic format. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 73. Used Blackboard to supplement course instruction | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 74. Searched the Web for information related to a course. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 75. developed and updated a personal web page | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 76. I have had multiple opportunities to use various aspects of computer technology in my Geography-Earth Science courses | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 77. I am proficient using at least one word processing program. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 78. I am proficient at developing a powerpoint presentation. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 79. I am proficient developing and using spreadsheets within a computer environment | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 80. I am proficient at conducting an internet search for data and or information. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 81. I am proficient at using the database search engines available in the library | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 82. I am proficient at using a GIS/Cartography design software to create a map | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

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| Writing Experiences | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* |  |
| 83. Used a dictionary or thesaurus to look up proper meaning of words. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 84. Thought about grammar, sentence structure, word choice and sequence of ideas as you were writing. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 85. Asked other people to read something you wrote to see if it was clear to them. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 86. Referred to a book/manual/internet about writing style, grammar, etc. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 87. Revised a writing assignment two or more times before you were satisfied. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 88. Asked an instructor, graduate assistant, or tutor for advice on improving writing. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 89. Prepared a major written report /paper for a class (20 pages or more). | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 90. Constructed a poster or presentation for a course. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never |
| 91. To what extent did you make use of the campus writing center? | At least twice a semester | Only about once or twice a year | Once or twice during my undergraduate program | Never |

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| Experiences with Advising and Faculty in the Geography-Earth Science Dept. | *A* | *B* | *C* | | *D* |
| 92. I met with my advisor every semester to discuss scheduling my courses. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 93. My advisor understands the requirements for graduation in my major. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 94. I followed the suggestions of my advisor regarding which courses to schedule. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 95. My advisor discussed internship opportunities/requirements with me. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 96. My advisor assisted me with career and or graduate school information | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 97. I have sufficient access to my academic advisor. | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 98. My advisor adequately advised me in terms of academics (courses to take, program options, etc.) | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 99. My advisor encouraged me to participate in non-curricular and/ or extra-curricular activities related to my major | Strongly Agree | Slightly Agree | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| 100. I talked with my instructors about information related to a course I was taking (grades, assignments, etc.). | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 101. I discussed my career plans and ambitions with my faculty advisor. | Yes - more often than once a semester | Yes - once a semester | Rarely, but yes | Never | |
| 102. I worked harder as a result of feedback from an instructor. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 103. I socialized with a faculty member outside of class—in the hall in the office | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 104. I socialized with a faculty member outside of class and outside of Shearer Hall (CUB, Library, Starbucks….) | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 105. I participated with other students in a discussion with one or more faculty members outside of class. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 106. I asked my instructor for comments and criticisms about my academic performance. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 107. I worked harder than I thought I could to meet an instructor’s expectations and standards. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 108. I worked with a faculty member on a research project. | Yes, on an independent project | Yes, on a project within a class | No |  | |
| Scientific/Field Experiences | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* | |
| 109. Memorized formulas, definitions, technical terms and concepts. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 110. Used mathematical terms to express a set of relationships | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 111. Explained your understanding of some scientific theory, principle, or concept of a geo-environmental nature to someone else (classmate, co-worker, family member, etc.) | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 112. Read articles relating to geoenvironmental concepts, theories, ideas, or events outside of those required and for purposes not directly related to your courses. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 113. Explained to another person the scientific basis for concerns about environmental issues such as pollution, recycling, alternative energy sources, acid rain, global warming, etc. | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 114. Applied conceptual understanding in a field setting (field trip, Burd Run, etc…) | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 115. Applied conceptual understanding to solve a problem using GIS or Remote Sensing | Very often | Often | Occasionally | Never | |
| 116. How many field trips did you take in relation to your geo-environmental program? | None | 1 to 3 | to 7 | 8 or more | |
| 117. To what extent are you confident that you will find a meaningful job or get accepted to graduate school following graduation? | Very confident-I have a job or have been accepted to grad school | Somewhat confident, I have had interviews | Not very confident, but there are some opportunities | Not at all | |
| 118. Did you put together a portfolio of course projects / materials for subsequent job interview purposes? | Yes, I think it is fairly complete | Yes, but I would like it to contain more | No, but I should have. | No, I did not. | |

One of the goals of the Department of Geography-Earth Science is to develop a geographic perspective in each of our students as they study different classes within their program. This perspective can be defined broadly as the ability to see the world and different situations using a viewpoint that incorporates both human and physical characteristics of the world, understanding the relationship between them, and, at the same time, understanding the importance of the scale at which the situation is viewed. A geographic perspective is a way of looking at and understanding the world. When you view the world through the lens of geography, you are asking who, what, where, and when people, places, and things are distributed across the surface of the earth, and why and how they got there. In other words, it means that you are analyzing something within its spatial, historical, cultural, political, and physical contexts.

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| Geographic Perspective | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* |
| 119. To what extent do you think your coursework in this department developed this perspective? | Very Strongly | Somewhat Strongly | Moderately | Not at All |
| 120. To what extent do you think this perspective is valuable in your chosen career? | Very Much | Somewhat | Very Little | Not at All |
| 121. To what extent do you think this perspective is valuable in understanding how the current world works? | Very Much | Somewhat | Very Little | Not at All |
| 122. To what extent do you think our understanding of human and/or environmental problems can change based on the scale of the analysis? | Very Much | Somewhat | Very Little | Not at All |
| 123. How frequently do you think you think about current events using a geographic/spatial perspective? | Very Frequently | Somewhat Frequently | Rarely | Not at All |
| 124. If you can think of a recent example when you used a geographic/spatial perspective, please describe it on the paper provided. |  |  |  |  |
| Final 2 Questions-Answer on the paper provided |  |  |  |  |
| 125. What are the five things you liked most about your major? | | | | |
| 126. What are the five things you liked least about your major? | | | | |